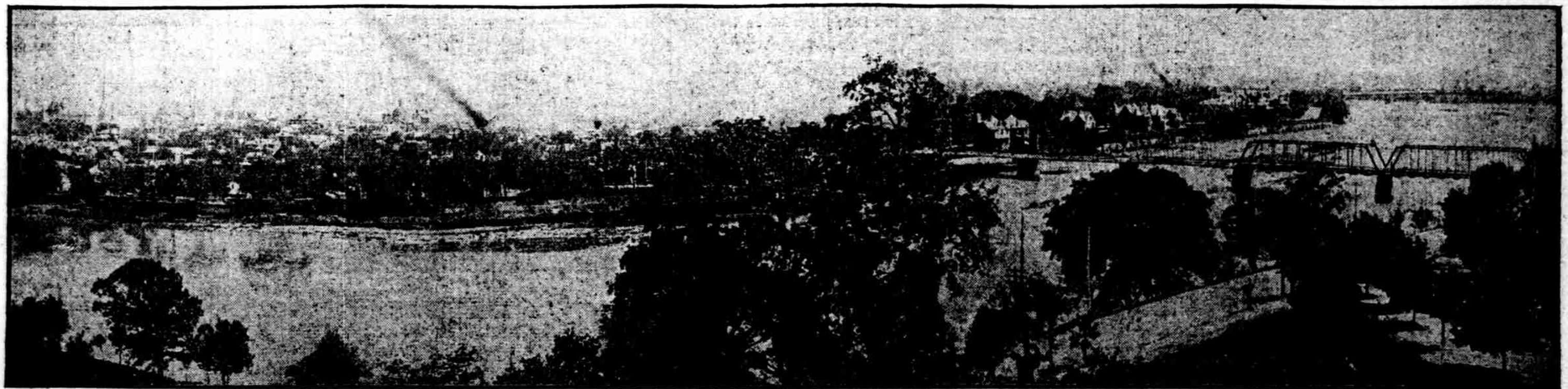


# TROOPS CALLED OUT TO STOP LOOTING—FOOD FAMINE FEARED

District, Causing Heavy Loss of Life and a Property Damage Still Unestimated, But Running Into the Millions



Dayton, at the Confluence of Mad and the Great Miami Rivers, Has Been Visited by Floods and Epidemics Repeatedly, But After Each, Has Come Out With Better Buildings and More Improvements. Is Recognized, so far as Accurate Street Measurements and Uniform Buildings, Both Residential and Commercial, Is Concerned, as "the City Beautiful" of the Country. Also is on the Erie and Miami Canals. Is Dotted With Tall Buildings, the Architecture of Which Follows a General Plan of the City Beautiful.

## MORE THAN 250,000 HOMELESS IN OHIO

Reports of Loss of Life and Property Meager Because of Paralyzed Communication.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—With more than 250,000 driven from their homes, whole towns laid waste, and loss of life that cannot be estimated, Ohio lay prostrate today before a flood that showed no signs of abatement. Reports that reached Columbus today from the stricken cities were meager because railroad facilities were paralyzed and only occasionally was Columbus able to get a telegraph or telephone connection.

"This is one of the most terrible catastrophes in the history of Ohio," said Governor Cox early today. After working all night in the adjutant general's office in the State house, officers of the Ohio National Guard reported this morning that they had succeeded in assembling 3,500 militiamen, ready for service in the flood districts as soon as transportation for them to these places could be established.

Score Laid Waste. More than a score of cities in the State have been devastated. No one doubts that the death list will be more than 100, while some reports say it may run into the thousands. There were no reliable reports today upon which to base a report of the dead. The homeless, according to an estimate by Governor Cox, will number 250,000. The property loss is almost beyond comprehension, because of its immensity.

Dayton, Piqua, Delaware, Sidney, Middletown, and Tipppecanoe City suffered most. All are situated within a few miles of each other. The great hydraulic dam at Piqua is said to have gone out during the night, flooding the entire city. One message placed the dead in Piqua at 500, but this report is without confirmation. Governor Cox early today received a telephone message from Bellefontaine saying that the entire city had been flooded and that the levee between Lakeview and Russell's Point, and was sweeping through the great Miami valley like a tidal wave. It was this vast quantity of water, added to the already overflowing river that inundated the cities of Piqua and Sidney. It is considered certain that loss of life in the valley swept by such a wave would run high.

Asks Aid. Appeals for supplies and aid were sent out by Governor Cox to the governors of Indiana, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, and West Virginia. Tents, blankets, and camp supplies were asked. Governor Cox prepared today to ask the Legislature to appropriate \$250,000 to aid in caring for the flood sufferers.

Scenes of indescribable horror are reported from Dayton. Loss of life is estimated from 100 to 500, according to various reports filtering in here. One report is that a school house is inundated and that nearly 60 children, who were in it when the levee broke, have been drowned. This, however, has not been confirmed. The entire city is under water from ten to thirty feet of water. People have sought the tall buildings and the hills as places of refuge.

The flood that hit Dayton was due to the breaking of the Loraine reservoir, in Shelby county, about 7 o'clock Tuesday morning. Rushing down the Miami valley, the water carried everything before it in Piqua, Troy, Sidney, Dayton, Carrollton, Miamisburg, and Hamilton.

Great Loss of Life. That there has been great loss of life in the Miami Valley is certain, but the exact extent is at this time largely guesswork. Among those who perished at Dayton are said to be ten members of the State militia who were guarding a bridge.

Adit Gen. George Wood, whose home is in Dayton, is directing the work of rescue and assisting in caring for the thousands who are homeless. In Columbus the West side is practically wiped out, 15,000 or more are homeless, and the reported loss of life ranges from a half dozen to two hundred. Houses are floating down the river with people on their roofs. Several fires in the submerged district have added to the horrors. Refugees slept in public buildings last night while militia helped the police patrol the streets, which were in total darkness.

Two Hundred Dead At Indianapolis. INDIANAPOLIS, March 26.—That 200 persons were drowned in West Indianapolis was reported today when communication was established with the west side for a brief time.

Communication was cut off when the Washington street bridge over the White river went out last night. The drowned were in the district flooded when the Norris street levee broke. Definite reports from that section of the city have not yet been obtained.

## COLD MAY RELIEVE FLOOD CONDITIONS

Snow in Most of Middle West Which Is Expected to Reach Capital Tomorrow.

The situation in the lower Mississippi and Ohio valleys was characterized as grave by officials of the Weather Bureau here today. At Pittsburgh the river is reported at flood stage, or about 25 feet, and at Cairo, Illinois, at 23 feet, or 15 feet below flood stage. The indications are for more rain all through that section, with correspondingly grave results.

"The rain storms have moved across the Ohio river and will swell the streams flowing into the Ohio river from the south, from now on," said the official today. "This means further flood conditions in the areas affected, since these streams are the ones which generally affect that locality. While there is no immediate cause for alarm just at present, unless conditions change, the likelihood that there will be no change for the worse, is not great. The situation is acute."

Path of the Storm. The present storm started at a point near Durango Monday morning, according to the Weather Bureau, and moved eastward along the lower Mississippi valley and up into the Ohio valley, which it reached last night. It is now in the vicinity of the New York lake region. In contradistinction to conditions along the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, where flood conditions prevail, the entire Northwest is reported in the grip of the ice king. Havre, Mont., reports 22 degrees below zero; in Yellowstone Park, it is 14 degrees below zero; at Placett the temperature is only 25 degrees, and at Sheridan, Wyo., reports show a temperature of 15 degrees.

Forecast for the Northwest, and extends as far south as northern Texas. The temperature is reported as low as 15 degrees below zero as far south as the Texas Panhandle. The expectation is that this will extend as far east as the Atlantic slope. The rains here will probably be succeeded by cold. It is now snowing in most of the middle West sections, and this may reach Washington, four forecasts indicate rain tomorrow, followed by cold in the day.

Cold May Give Relief. "This condition may relieve conditions throughout the Ohio valley. The storm is about over in Ohio and Indiana. Most of the damage along the Ohio river was caused by giving away of the levees, the banks of the river are low at the points affected, and a very slight rise in the river would flood a considerable section of the country if not protected by the levees."

Speaking of the situation along the coast, the officials said that the storms along the Cape Hatteras region were about over. "We have alarm signals raised off New England the wind is blowing sixty miles an hour now, and this will continue today and tonight."

Crippled Transportation Results in Tie-Ups of Mails From the West

All mails due east through Pittsburgh and Chicago have been held up by the floods in the Middle West, and there are rows of clerks at the postoffice today with nothing to do except wait. Since yesterday morning not a single bag of mail has passed through the flooded district, and Postmaster Merritt expects little for several days.

Everything in the Northern portion of the United States west of Pittsburgh is tied up as tight as lack of transportation facilities can tie them. The following are the mail routes from which nothing has been heard since 7 a. m. yesterday: Omaha-Ogden R. P. O., Detroit-Cleveland R. P. O., Chicago-Minneapolis R. P. O., Pittsburgh-St. Louis R. P. O., Pittsburgh-Chicago R. P. O., Rock Island-Kansas City R. P. O., Chicago-West Liberty-Omaha R. P. O. Mail which is routed through southern Ohio by way of Cincinnati is still coming through, although the service has been somewhat crippled in spots. Postmaster Merritt is fearful that when the floods move further south that this route will also be put out of business, and nothing except mail by way of the far southern routes will be received.

Reports on water stages in the swollen rivers in the flood district were delayed in reaching the United States Weather Bureau today. Telegraphic communication was interrupted, and the local Ohio forecasters could not report to the main office.

Among the first river reports received today was that from Zanesville, Ohio, which stated that the Muskingum river recorded a stage of forty feet, fifteen feet above flood stage, and was still rising rapidly.

## CAPITAL PRINTERS WILL GIVE \$1,000

First Contribution To Be Made in Washington Is From Union of Plate Operators.

The first contribution to the relief fund for the sufferers in the flood stricken districts to come from Washington, was made this afternoon when the Washington Plate Printers' Union unanimously voted to send \$1,000 at the earliest moment.

This sum will be placed in the hands of Howard S. Reeside, treasurer of the Washington branch of the Red Cross Society, and will be dispatched to Ohio and Indiana before night.

A special meeting of the executive committee of the Plate Printers' Union was called earlier in the day. The members of the committee immediately visited the plate printers, the larger part of whom are employed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and put the matter before them. The committee was directed to send \$1,000 at once.

WHEELING, W. Va., March 26.—Wheeling and towns of the entire Ohio river valley are preparing for one of the worst floods ever experienced. The waters of the interior streams began pouring into the Ohio early today.

In the course of a few hours the river had risen within two feet of the danger mark. Residents in the lowlands began moving from their homes today.

No conservation scheme nor river improvement plan that man can devise will stop sudden rains and the sudden violence of small streams in narrow gulches. It seems to depend on a "Power above," said Senator Randall of Louisiana, today. Senator Randall is president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

"We can and ought to do something to prevent the disastrous floods on the great rivers, but I fear we are helpless in the case of the innumerable small rivers of the country," added the Senator.

Washington is one of the first cities to respond to the appeal of Governor Cox of Ohio for aid for the flood sufferers. Commissioner Rudolph, president of the District of Columbia Board of the American Red Cross, this afternoon issued to the citizens of the District an appeal for funds.

A conference was held today between Miss Mabel Boardman, chairman of the American Red Cross, and Commissioner Rudolph, at which it was decided to offer to residents of the District an opportunity to aid in plans for the immediate relief of those whose homes have been devastated by the flood. The following is the appeal:

"The appalling distress of the prevailing floods in the Middle West calls for such extraordinary and immediate relief that the local chapter of the American Red Cross most urgently appeals to the people of the District of Columbia to contribute, as far as is within their power, to the means of providing the needed assistance. The chapter feels that there will be a response in keeping with the record of this community for liberality in this respect. Contributions should be sent to Howard S. Reeside, treasurer, District of Columbia Chapter, Red Cross Society, American Security and Trust

## More Floods Are Likely, Says Official of Bureau

Prof. Alfred J. Henry, in charge of the river and flood division of the Weather Bureau, declared the country might expect to see an unusual prevalence of floods and damaging storms such as those now inflicted on Ohio and Indiana. Concerning the floods in the Ohio region, he said:

"The floods are due merely to the fact that the rain came down in unusual volume and continued to fall for more than forty-eight hours. Such a rainfall always causes floods. It was unusually heavy. The rivers went to the bank-full stage in something like twelve hours of rainfall. Then the rain continued and damaging floods were inevitable."

"The rivers in Ohio are higher than ever before known, because of the excessive rainfall. At Dayton, a part of the damage is due to the breaking of the levee, but in general the whole situation is explainable simply because of the enormous rainfall."

Prof. Henry was asked whether the denudation of the forest area had anything to do with the situation. "Not the slightest," he replied. "The unusually warm winter and spring are resulting in a heavier rainfall than usual. We may expect much damage from the source in various parts of the country this season. The floods now occurring are a repetition of the big floods along the Ohio river in January of this year. They are in an area a little farther north, reaching from western Pennsylvania, through Ohio to Indiana and farther West."

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## CAPITAL RESIDENTS HELD UP BY FLOOD

Washington Couple Miss the Dayton Disaster—Others Fear for Friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Emerson, of Washington, are caught by the Ohio flood at Columbus, according to a telegram received today by Mrs. Emerson's father, the Rev. Roland Cotton Smith, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church. Mr. and Mrs. Emerson had planned to spend today in Dayton visiting friends, but were unable to get out of Columbus. Their Dayton visit was planned as a stop-over on the way to Galveston, Tex., where Mr. Emerson is to become an official of a land company. The telegram said they hoped to get out of Columbus tonight via Cleveland. They will then go to Galveston from Chicago.

Mr. Emerson was formerly secretary to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury James F. Curtis. His wife was Miss Margaret Skourne Smith. The wedding took place in January, 1913. Friends of Milton E. Alles, vice president of the High National Bank, and Eugene Alles, Washington representative of Colgate & Co. bankers and brokers of New York, are awaiting with anxiety reports from Sidney, Ohio, the home town of the financial men. Milton E. Alles is now in Florida for a few weeks. In Sidney at this time are the mother and three sisters of Mr. Alles and his brother, none of whom has been heard from.

The executive offices were kept in close touch with the situation in Ohio and Indiana by the Red Cross office. When Miss Boardman called she had with her a score of telegrams portraying in skeleton form the extent of the disaster resulting from floods.

The appeal issued by the President to a call for money on the advice of the Red Cross. It has been almost invariably experience that contributions are delayed in transit and are difficult to handle. If the Red Cross is supplied with funds the necessary supplies can be purchased at points whence they can be hurried to the districts where needed.

The offices of the Red Cross are flooded with appeals for aid. At the same time the cyclone broke in Omaha there was a serious storm situation in Alabama. Subsequently aid was sent to Indiana following the cyclone of the day. Added to these demands for aid and attention came the crowding disaster in the Ohio valley.

As a result of these floods trouble is anticipated within a short time along the Mississippi where last year a terrible situation, involving huge loss of life and property, claimed the attention of the relief society.

Thousands Reported To Be Dead in Ohio; Here's Latest List

Reports wholly without verification and based on rumors which filtered in early today from the flood-swept areas of Ohio, place the loss of life as follows:

Dayton, 100 to 5,000.  
Piqua, 200.  
Sidney, 25.  
Middletown, 15.  
Hamilton, 12.

## APPEAL FOR HELP ISSUED BY WILSON

President Asks American People for Contributions for Indiana and Ohio Flood Victims.

Following a conference between Miss Mabel Boardman, chairman of the relief board of the American Red Cross, and Joseph P. Tumulty, Private Secretary to President Wilson, the President today issued a general appeal for aid for Ohio and Indiana flood sufferers. He also sent a telegram of sympathy to Gov. James Cox, of Ohio.

The appeal, a call to the American people to make a common cause of aid, follows:

The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana have assumed the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and the infinite suffering involved prompt me to issue an earnest appeal to all who are able, in however small a way, to assist the labors of the American Red Cross in sending contributions at once to the Red Cross at Washington or to the local treasurers of the society. We should make this a common cause. The needs of those upon whom this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken everyone capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those who are laboring to rescue and relieve.

The telegram to Governor Cox of Ohio follows:

I deeply sympathize with the people of your State in the terrible disaster that has come upon them. Can the Federal Government assist in any way?

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## GARRISON ORDERS TENTS AND RATIONS

Food for 100,000 Persons on to Dayton From St. Louis and Other Cities.

Fifty thousand tents accommodating 250,000 persons, and rations for 100,000, were ordered by Secretary of War Garrison to be rushed to Dayton this afternoon. The tents will be sent from Philadelphia, under the care of Major James E. Normoyle, and will be on their way before evening.

Secretary Garrison issued these orders in response to a hurried appeal from Governor Cox, of Ohio. His orders were that these tents, which were en route to Gettysburg for the summer encampment, should be intercepted immediately and sent by fast express to the flooded cities.

The rations for 100,000 persons are now on their way from St. Louis, Fort Sheridan, and other nearby supply centers.

At the same time, 400 tents, accommodating 2,000 persons, were ordered from St. Louis to Omaha. Mayor Dahlman, finding that additional shelter was necessary, finally made his appeal to the War Department.

## All Railroad Traffic Has Been Suspended On Cleveland Roads

CLEVELAND, March 26.—All railroad traffic in Cleveland has been suspended because of washouts and no trains entered or left last night. The Lake Shore railroad tracks along the shore of Lake Erie were thought immune, but that road had suffered along with the Big Four, Pennsylvania, and Wheeling and Lake Erie.

The West Third street bridge, over the Cuyahoga river, was swept away by a foot rise in the river tonight. The day, was unharmed. All traffic had been kept off the bridge and no one was hurt. The loss will exceed \$2,000.

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CHURCH NOTICES. THE SPIRITUALIST TEMPLE LEAGUE of Washington, D. C. M. W. Harris will be present. All are welcome.

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## Three Flood Pictures From Cities in Stricken Territory

Upper Left, Flood on Levee at St. Louis, Mo.; Upper Right, a Street in Peru, Ind.; Lower, the Residential Section of St. Joe During 1912 Floods.

